FSA NEWS

Office Ernest Reusser, County Executive Direct Eureka, KS 67045

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Greenwood County FSA 1819 E. River St.

June/July 2006

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone (620) 583-5544 Fax (620) 583-6236

County Committee normally meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

County Committee Members: Marshall Stauffer – Chairperson, Kim Boone – Vice Chairperson, Zelma Samuels – Regular Member

2006 FSA COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION NOMINATIONS BEGIN

The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 required the Secretary to solicit and accept nominations for County Committee member positions from organizations representing the interests of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 significantly expanded the requirements of the Secretary to ensure the transparency and accountability of program participation and County Committee elections for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

On June 15, the County Committee began soliciting candidates from Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA#2) in Greenwood County for nominations of the upcoming County Committee elections (this includes the townships of Eureka, Bachelor, Lane, Quincy, Pleasant Grove and Salt Springs). Producers who participate in an FSA program may be

nominated for candidacy for the committee. The FSA-669A, Nomination Form for County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee Election was recently mailed out to eligible voters and is available in any county FSA office or may be obtained electronically at http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov. Each form submitted must be limited to one nominee, signed and dated by the nominee (nominee must sign if willing to have name placed on ballot and agrees to serve if elected), and delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1, 2006. Individuals who want to file FSA-669A may nominate themselves or may nominate another eligible candidate. Organizations representing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers may nominate any eligible candidate. Any producer residing in the County Committee jurisdiction may nominate an eligible candidate. Please complete and submit the FSA-669A by the above deadline.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The USDA Farm Service Agency Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) provides low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. Farm storage facility loans must be approved by the local FSA county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can be started. The following are some eligible types of facilities and upgrades that can be paid for with farm storage facility loans: New conventional type bins designed for whole grain storage, new oxygen-limiting and other upright silotype structures designed for whole gain wet storage, new flat-type storage structures with permanent floors and bulkheads designed and primarily used to store whole grain, new electrical equipment integral to the proper operation of the grain storage and handling equipment, and new concrete foundations, or pits essential to the proper operation of the grain storage

and handling equipment. All FSFL loans must be secured by a promissory note and security agreement as well as a UCC-1 describing the storage facility. Other loan terms include a 15% cash down payment (CCC's loan limit is 85% of the net cost of eligible storage, drying and handling equipment), loan term is 7 years repaid in equal installments, interest rate is fixed for loan term and based on the rate in effect during the month the loan is approved (June rate is currently 5.00%) and the maximum amount a person is allowed to borrow is \$100,000. Farm Storage Facility Loans will not be disbursed until the facility has been erected and inspected. Eligible borrowers must have a satisfactory credit rating, demonstrate the ability to repay the loan, possess no delinquent nontax federal debt, produce eligible crops and demonstrate a storage need. For more details about the FSFL program contact your county FSA office.

AUGUST 1 - 2006 CROP CERTIFICATION DEADLINE

August 1 is the final date to report cropland acreages of corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, alfalfa, cool and warm season grasses, and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. We will need planting dates when certifying spring planted crops. Please call the FSA Office for an appointment to report your 2006 planted crops, grasses and alfalfa acreages. Appointments will take precedence over walk-ins.

2006 COMMODITY LOANS AND LDPs

Following are the 2006 county loan rates for harvested crops: Wheat(HRW) -- \$2.77/bu;

Barley -- \$1.75/bu; Oats -- \$1.34/bu; Corn -- \$2.06/bu; Grain Sorghum -- \$3.38/cwt; Soybeans -- \$4.95/bu; Sunflowers -- \$8.88/cwt; Nongraded Wool -- \$.40/lb; Mohair -- \$4.20/lb. Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) may again be a factor this year on some crops and wool. Producers are reminded that form CCC-633EZ page 1 must be on file prior to harvesting the affected crop or shearing the sheep. These forms were previously mailed out to all crop producers on record in the county for the 2006 crop year. If you have 2006 eligible growing crops and have not received and returned the CCC-633EZ page 1, please contact the county office immediately to complete.

2006 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PROGRAM (DCP)

Producers who failed to meet the June 1 deadline to sign a DCP contract have until September 30 to file late and pay a \$100/farm fee to be eligible for the Direct and/or Counter-Cyclical payments.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS - REPORT FARM CHANGES IMMEDIATELY

 $November \ 3 \ \hbox{- Ballots mailed to eligible voters}$

December 4 - Last day to return voted ballots to county office

Report any changes in your address or operation and Bank Accounts that affect your FSA payments **All USDA Offices will be closed July 4th and September 4th** in observance of Independence and Labor Day **Note: If you believe you received this newsletter in error, or wish to be removed from future mailings, please contact your current FSA county office.

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